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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**37<sup>th</sup> Session, Item 4 – March 12, 2018**

**ID with SR on the Islamic Republic of Iran**

Delivered by Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter,  
Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN in Geneva

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Mr. President,

Like so many others we would like to express our sorrow upon the untimely passing of Special Rapporteur Asma Jahangir, who did a commendable job fulfilling one of the most necessary special mandates ever established by this Council.

The dismal human rights record of Iran is often brought to light in the context of its rampant use of the death penalty. On February 16 the High Commissioner for Human Rights noted that: "No other State comes even remotely close to the total number of juveniles who have been executed in Iran over the past couple of decades". It is important that attention is given to Iran's disregard of its own obligations under ICCPR and CRC.

Unfortunately, other gross violations of human rights by Iran do not get as much exposure. Religious and ethnic minorities such as the Baha'is, Christians and Sunni Arabs continue to suffer from discrimination and oppression, like the 92 Baha'is who were held in prisons last year. Women's rights continue to be restricted, and so do the freedoms of expression, association and assembly. Dozens of journalists, online media activists, and trade unionists have been prosecuted on charges of "acting against national security".

This is why the work of the Special Rapporteur is so important, as it is among the only voices in the UN arena in Geneva calling out Iran's persistent violations.

Mr. President,

Most of all, as a country directly threatened by Iran's war-mongering in the Middle East, we would like to remind Member States of the high toll and inconceivable loss of lives due to human rights violations also by Iran's entrenchment in Syria. Iran continues to be the main destabilizing factor in the region.

Thank you.